

Title: The Tale of Toadtown

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This story begins with a young princess, who was spiteful of her fathers strong rule over her.

She was a typical young woman, filling her day with sigh filled dreams of the day when

she would at last meet her prince who would rescue her and whisk her away from her dreadful father. She spent many a day strolling thru the forests of Sosaria speaking to the animals

that would come along her path. One day, she chanced upon a toad. She crouched down to study the perculiar animal as he seemed to be doing the same to her. "What are you starring at so

intently I wonder" she questioned to herself and was astounded when the Toad responded.

"In all my time on this earth, I have never seen one so beautiful as you" he replied. "Silly Toad, she

giggled, " I've heard the tale of your kind."
"Whatever do you mean Princess? Can you not accept a compliment without doubt? the Toad asked. The Princess giggled again, "Dont tell

me you haven't heard the tale of the Frog Prince? she questioned.
"I have no desire to kiss a frog or a toad for that matter" she added.
"Ahhhhh you are referring to that childs

fable of my cousin" the Toad replied. "But I am no Prince, I am however the Mayor of a serene little town not far from here. If you would be so kind as to join me in a stroll, I could take you

there and show you. You may well be impressed by the friendliness and the beauty of our little community."

The Princess found herself amused yet intrigued as the toad

continued to speak of his little town. She could not deny that she was not curious as to what this talking toad spoke of, so being a curious and spiteful girl, she agreed, knowing this

would not meet the approval of her father. During the stroll, the Toad introduced himself as Nebiros, the only son of a poor blacksmith, whose father sacrificed his life to fight for his

continued to speak of his little town. She could not deny that she was not curious as to what this talking toad spoke of, so being a curious and spiteful girl, she agreed, knowing this

to continue his story by questioning how he came to be mayor.

"Well let me tell you," the toad grinned again, happy to move on from the sad memories of his past. "My father raised

me with the belief that strong will and determination will take you far in this world, along with the courage to fight for what you believe. As a young toad, I earned my keep making

barding deeds for the local swampies, along with some of the finest weapons in sosaria for our fearless warriors. My skill with the hammer soon became legend, and with that there came

fame and money. You would think that the story would end here, but

alas it does not as ours
is a cruel world, driven
by malicious intent of
some too lazy to acquire
things on their own.

With the increasing
notoriety of our town,
came the attraction of
thugs and never do wells,
and I myself became the
target of many attempts
of my life and finances.
This encouraged me to

run as Sheriff of
Toadtown, swearing to
clean up and bring back
peace to our humble
town. In the years
that followed, I then
decided to run for mayor,
at the request of the

towns people...which takes
us to where we are
today.

"That is indeed quite the
tale" the Princess
replied, " and you must
be very proud and
satisfied with your life"

"As happy as I am now,
this story has still to
come to an end, and
cannot be called a happy
one until I fullfil the one
thing I have been looking
for all this time. A man
can make build his home

and keep it safe, but
with no one to return to
each night I cannot
consider my life
complete." The toad
continued, admitting that

he had been raptured by
the Princess' beauty since

the first day he spotted
her during one of her
strolls through the
forest, and that he would
search out for her each
day for the chance of a
glimpse of her. It was
something about her voice

and the peaceful
expression that had
captured his heart at
first glance. He had
vowed to himself from
that very day that he
would find a way to make
her his bride. The

Princess giggled with a
slight blush on her
cheeks, surprised that she
could be so flattered by
a Toad, but his words
seemed so sincere. The
two found themselves
nearing the outskirts of

the small town and as
soon as her eyes gazed
upon the town, a sense
of peacefulness filled her.
" Is there anyone else
here but you?" she asked,
seeing no one in sight.
"Of course" the toad

croaked "but remember
the story I told you of
the Thugs and Thieves?
Well in order to protect
our people, we all learned
the trait of hiding and
stealth, so we could move
about unbeknowst to the

scum that used to lurk
our streets. But do not
think that we hid in fear,
for we have some very
skilled warriors who would
fight for what belonged
to us. Finding themselves
at a loss, the scourge

left to find other less
defensive victims to prey
upon."

Having said this, Nebiros
let out a loud croak
calling out to the people
to show themselves to
their guest. Slowly, one

by one; the people began
to gather and introduce
themselves to the
Princess. The Princess
had never felt so
welcome and happy as she
did talking to and laughing
with the towns people.

As the sun began to set,
the Princess stated she
had to return home
before her father had his
men come looking for
her. "You could learn to
hide like us" one of the
younger toads suggested.

" That way you could
stay and live with us
forever". "That sounds
wonderful" the Princess
replied, "and maybe one
day I will, but for now I
must return to my home.
As the days went by,

the Princess would find
herself now looking to
find the Toad so that
she could again go and

talk to the wonderful
people she met that day.

At night she would find
herself thinking of the

Toad, and as time passed
she found that he had
indeed warmed himself
into her heart.

Then came the day when
the King called for the
Princess and informed her
that she would be wed to

the son of the
neighbouring lands King.
She had heard of this
boy and knew that he
was ruthless and lazy,
with few morals or
concern for anyone but
himself. She would never

marry one such as him.
The King laughed and told
her there was no option,
that the plans had been
set and they were to be
married the next week.
The Princess raced to
her room, feigning tears

and surrender to her
fathers demand. Instead
she gathered her most
precious possessions and
left during the night
heading to none other
than Toad town. She
knocked quickly on

Nebiros' door as he
allowed her inside and
listened to her story.
"Well it seems like this
story will have a happy
ending after all." he
chuckled as he set out
the plans for the

Princess. She sat quietly
and listened and thanked

him for his generosity, but could not hide the sadness in her eyes. "Why so sad?" Nebiros questioned..."dont you want to live here with us?

""Of course I do" she replied, "but I guess this means I wont be a Princess anymore" "No" Nebiros responded softly as he took her hand, "You will no longer be the Princess, but you will

however be my Queen. For the next few weeks, the King had his men searched all over Sosaria relentlessly, leaving only fear and destruction as a path. Like the people of Toad Town, the Princess

learned the skill of hiding and stealth and enjoyed her life unknown to many until the death of her father. Today, Queen Toad wants everyone to know of her story and